[Mr. Ittoop Itteechan.]

(*l*) whether the merchant canoes that enter Travancore from Cochin through Arukutti are not compelled to halt at the local plague observation station for purposes of medical inspection;

(*m*) whether these merchant canoes are completely unloaded before their medical inspection;

(*n*) whether they are aware that merchants suffer great loss and hardship on account of the unloading of such canoes for medical inspection and the consequent exposure of the goods to sun and rain;

(*o*) whether they are aware of a complaint that on payment of sufficient remuneration such canoes will be inspected without unloading and that the merchants have a grievance in this respect also; and

(*p*) if the answer to part (*o*) is in the affirmative, whether they will make the necessary enquiries?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Observation stations have been opened at Arukutti, Veluttulli, Alwaye, Ankamali, Parur (Chakkarakadavu) and at Udayamperur, under the charge of Special Medical Officers and at Kandanad by the Customs authorities of the station.

(*b*) Yes

(*c*) Two; one Assistant Surgeon and one Sub-Assistant Surgeon.

(*d*) Steam and motor boats about a dozen and cargo-laden canoes between 35 and 40.

(*e*) (*f*) and (*g*) Yes.

(*h*) No. It is reported that no avoidable inconvenience or delay is caused to the passengers in the course of examination.

(*i*) The recommendation received from the Special Plague Officer for additional Medical Officers is under the consideration of Government.

(*j*) (i) and (ii) and (*k*) All the passengers are examined in the boat in which they travel.

(*l*) Yes.

(*m*) Yes; in the case of canoes bringing food grains and other merchandise susceptible of conveying infection or harbouring rats.

(*n*) The Government are not aware. The Special Plague Officer is of opinion that further exposure to sun is essential in disinfection of grains, cereals, etc.

(*o*) No complaint of the kind has come to the notice of the Government.

(*p*) This question does not arise in view of the answer to questions above.

Publication of Advertisements in Newspapers.

157. **MR. ITTOOP ITTEECHAN** (*Kunnatnad*): Will the Government be pleased to state the reason for the differential treatment in the matter of publishing Government and departmental advertisements even in the newspapers in Travancore?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The question is vague as the member does not specify the nature of the differential treatment shown and when it was shown in respect of Government and departmental advertisements published in the newspapers in Travancore.

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